instructions for detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to the respective icon;

instructions for determining a respective symbol in the two or more symbols to which the contact corresponds; and

instructions for modifying the displayed respective icon to indicate that the contact corresponds to the respective symbol.

21. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a touch-sensitive display;

one or more processors;

memory; and

a program, wherein the program is stored in the memory and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the program including:

instructions for displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein two or more subsets of the plurality of icons are arranged in corresponding rows on the touch-sensitive display, and wherein a space greater than a pre-determined value is included between adjacent rows;

instructions for detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to the respective icon; and

instructions for displaying a symbol corresponding to the respective icon in the space between a respective row corresponding to the respective icon and a neighboring row while the contact is maintained.

22. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a touch-sensitive display;

one or more processors;

memory; and

a program, wherein the program is stored in the memory and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the program including:

instructions for displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in the plurality of icons corresponds to at least one symbol;

instructions for displaying one or more recommended words, wherein the one or more recommended words are in accordance with a user history, and wherein the one or more recommended words are displayed prior to detecting any contacts by a user corresponding to symbol selection by the user in a current application session;

instructions for detecting a contact by the user with the touch-sensitive display, wherein the contact includes a gesture; and

instructions for selecting a respective recommended word corresponding to the gesture.

23. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a touch-sensitive display;

one or more processors;

memory; and

a program, wherein the program is stored in the memory and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the program including:

instructions for displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons corresponds to two or more symbols;

instructions for detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to a selection of the respective icon, wherein the contact includes a respective gesture; and

instructions for determining a respective symbol in the two or more symbols for the respective icon to which the contact further corresponds, wherein the respective symbol is a first symbol in the two or more symbols if the respective gesture includes a continuous contact and the respective symbol is a second symbol in the two or more symbols if the respective gesture includes a discontinuous contact.

24. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a touch-sensitive display;

one or more processors;

memory; and

a program, wherein the program is stored in the memory and configured to be executed by the one or more processors, the program including:

instructions for displaying a plurality of icons on a touch-sensitive display, wherein a respective icon in at least a subset of the plurality of icons corresponds to two or more symbols, a first symbol in the two or more symbols belongs to a first subset of symbols and a second symbol in the two or more symbols belongs to a second subset of symbols, and wherein the first symbol has a probability of occurrence that is greater than a first pre-determined value and the second symbol has a probability of occurrence that is less than the first pre-determined value;

instructions for detecting a contact by a user with the touch-sensitive display that corresponds to a selection of the respective icon, wherein the contact includes a respective gesture; and

instructions for determining a respective symbol in the two or more symbols for the respective icon to which the contact further corresponds.

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